CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for collecting information when conducting research, comprising the steps of:

electronically capturing content;

electronically capturing source information pertinent to the source of the captured content;

associating the content and the source information; and

transmitting the content and source information to a device for manipulation.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of electronically capturing the content and source information comprises capturing the content and source information with a common scan head of a scanning device.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of electronically capturing the content and source information comprises capturing the content and source information with separate text and data code scan heads, respectively, of a scanning device.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of electronically capturing source information comprises scanning a bar code of the source.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the source information comprises bibliographic information pertinent to the source.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the source information comprises information that can be used to retrieve bibliographic information pertinent to the source.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of capturing content location information that identifies where the content was found in the source.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the content location information comprises one or more page numbers.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of performing optical character recognition on the content.

10. A device for recording information when conducting research, comprising:

means for electronically capturing content;

means for electronically capturing source information pertinent to the source of the captured content;

means for associating the content and the source information; and

means for transmitting the content and source information to a device for manipulation.

11. A method for using captured information, comprising the steps of:

receiving content and associated source information pertinent to the source of the content in electronic form;

reconfiguring the content and associated source information for use in a user application; and

automatically creating at least one source acknowledgement in the user application.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of receiving the content and associated source information comprises receiving the content and associated source information with a handheld scanning device.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one source acknowledgement includes a bibliography.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one source acknowledgement includes a footnote.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one source acknowledgement includes an endnote.

16. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of receiving content location information pertinent to the location of the content within the source.

17. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of retrieving bibliographic information pertinent to the source using the source information.

18. The method of claim 11, further comprising conducting optical character recognition on the content.

19. A system for using captured information, comprising:

means for receiving content and associated source information pertinent to the source of the content in electronic form;

means for reconfiguring the content and associated source information for use in a user application; and

means for automatically creating at least one source acknowledgement in the user application.

20. A handheld scanning device, comprising:

a housing configured as a pen;

a scan head that is adapted to capture information from a source; and

memory including an information association module that is configured to associate captured content with captured source information.

21. The device of claim 20, wherein the device comprises two separate scan heads, one provided at each end of the device, one of the scan heads being adapted to capture text and the other scan head being adapted to capture data code information.

22. The device of claim 20, further comprising a transceiver that is adapted to transmit captured information to another device for manipulation.

23. The device of claim 20, further comprising an optical character recognition module stored in memory.

24. The device of claim 20, wherein the scan head comprises a charge-coupled device (CCD).